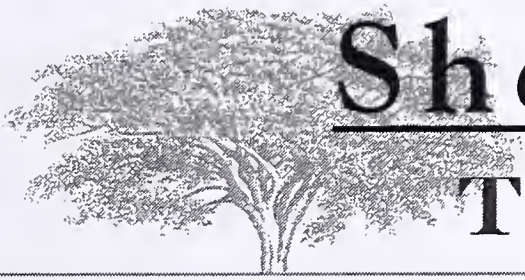


**SPECIAL
ELECTION
ISSUE**



Sheffield TIMES

Town meeting:
May 4

Town election:
May 11

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Special Election Supplement APRIL 2009

HIGHLIGHTS: SELECTMAN RACE, NEW SCHOOL BUDGET FORMULA

In Sheffield's town elections, to be held on Mon., May 11, there is one contested race. David Smith, Jr., and Rene Wood are running for the position of selectman, a seat currently held by Jim Collingwood. Collingwood took out nomination papers for another term but did not file them. Smith or Wood will join Julie Hannum and David Macy on Sheffield's Board of Selectmen.

Uncontested positions this year are town moderator, one seat on the Library's Board of Trustees and two seats on the Planning Board.

Bruce Person is running for modera-

tor, a position he's held for 20 years.

Betty LeGeyt is running for re-election to the Library's Board of Trustees.

Peter Cherneff, currently a Planning Board alternate, and Chris Tomich, currently the chair of the Planning Board, are running to fill two seats.

Profiles and pictures of the candidates are on pages 6 and 7.

Also on the ballot are two Proposition 2½ budget overrides tied to two articles in the warrant. Question 1a would approve an override sufficient to pay for the alternate method of figuring Sheffield's share of the school budget,

per Article 6 of the warrant. Question 2a would approve an override to pay for the compromise method, per Article 5. See the school budget discussion, below.

Voting will take place from 9am to 7pm at Sheffield's Town Hall. Absentee ballots are available from the Town Clerk up to noon on Fri., May 8. Call the Town Clerk at 229-7000, ext. 151, if you have questions.

Town meeting and the budget

Sheffield's town meeting will take place at 7pm on Mon., May 4, at Mt.

Continued on page 2

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

As a public service, the Sheffield Times reprints the warrant for Sheffield's town meeting on May 4 verbatim.

To the Constables of the Town of Sheffield in said County of Berkshire, Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the auditorium of the Mount Everett Regional High School on Berkshire School Road in Sheffield on Monday, May 4, 2009, at 7:00 P.M. for the following purposes:

ARTICLE I: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, such sums of money as listed below, and as may be amended, necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2010, or take any other action relative thereto.

Moderator	\$ 200	Police Department	\$418,669	American Legion	\$ 500
Selectmen's Office	\$156,704	Fire Department	\$ 40,445	Care of Soldier's Graves	\$ 1,400
Board of Assessors	\$ 91,007	Inspectional Services	\$ 75,800	Ashley Falls Historic Dist. Comm.	\$ 100
Treasurer/Collector	\$145,124	Fire Hydrants	\$ 7,942	Agricultural Commission	\$ 500
Town Clerk	\$ 54,046	Animal Control	\$ 8,500	Interest on Loans	\$ 1
Elections & Registration	\$ 19,890	Highway Department	\$551,050	Berkshire County Retirement	\$170,306
Conservation Commission	\$ 6,930	Streetlights	\$ 11,500	Worker's Compensation	\$ 18,500
Planning Board	\$ 11,000	Board of Health	\$ 14,334	Unemployment Comp. Fund	\$ 1
Economic Development Comm	\$ 100	Visiting Nurse Association	\$ 3,096	Group Health (32B) Insurance	\$280,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 2,000	Council on Aging	\$ 48,460	Employer Medicare	\$ 19,000
Town Buildings & Properties	\$104,100	Veterans Benefits	\$ 18,000	Financial Audit	\$ 12,000
Town Report & Communications	\$ 5,500	Library	\$152,664	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 67,000
Legal Services	\$ 15,000	Historical Commission	\$ 100		
Dispatch Services	\$ 7,602	Memorial Day	\$ 750		

Continued on page 3

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No editorial or political advertisements

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Sheffield TIMES

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among the people, businesses, and organizations
of Sheffield and Ashley Falls

HIGHLIGHTS, continued from page 1

Everett Regional High School. All Sheffield residents are welcome at the meeting, but only registered Sheffield voters can vote.

Here are highlights:

Town budget items. Most of the proposed items in Article 1 are at the same level as last year's budget, or even a bit less. The biggest line item is for the Highway Dept., which includes allocations for salt, sand, gravel and asphalt. The largest increases are for items connected with pensions and health insurance—and for town buildings and properties, which is up 9 percent over last year's budget.

Compensation. Under Article 2, compensation for elected officers, which range from \$200 to \$2,200, remain the same. Article 3 keeps the same \$800 stipend for Sheffield's four members of the School Committee.

School budget. Articles 4 through 9 are about the school budget and present a substantive choice for voters at the town meeting. The now-elected School Committee for Southern Berkshire Regional School District has come up with a compromise plan to deal with how the five towns that make up the district share the school's operating costs.

Until 2007, the costs were divided according to the "alternative method," based mostly on the number of students. Following the recommendation of Sheffield's Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee, Sheffield's voters that year elected to shift to the "statutory method," a Massachusetts Dept. of Education formula that takes into account a town's relative ability to pay. Since Alford, Egremont, Monterey and New Marlborough are relatively wealthier than Sheffield, the switch saved Sheffield more than \$300,000.

The vote, however, caused a lot of ill will toward the town. New Marlborough sued Sheffield over the issue.

Article 4 presents the compromise

worked out by the School Committee and endorsed by Sheffield's Board of Selectmen. It would use both the alternative and statutory methods to figure each town's contribution, 50/50 in Fiscal Year 2010 (which starts June 1, 2009) and 25/75 in FY 2011. For this compromise to take effect, all five towns must approve it at their town meetings.

The school's operating budget for FY 2010 has been set at \$13,203,459, an increase of 2 percent. Article 5 approves the amount required to meet the compromise. Sheffield's share would be \$5.6 million and would require passage of a Proposition 2½ override vote in the amount of \$177,000.

Article 6 and 7 are included in

case the compromise of Article 4 and its associated Proposition 2½ override don't pass. Article 6 approves the amount required under the alternative method and would require passage of a Proposition 2½ override vote in the amount of \$305,000. Article 7 approves the amount required under the statutory method and requires no Proposition 2½ override.

Article 8 approves Sheffield's share of the school's capital budget, an amount 6 percent lower than last year's. Article 9 approves \$55,000 money to pay for vocational education for Sheffield students.

New equipment. Article 17 would add \$40,000 to the \$350,000 approved last year for purchase of a new fire truck. The truck couldn't be bought in 2008, until the Fire Dept. was sure it could house it, and the price went up. Article 20 approves \$30,000 for a new brush chipper and snow plows for the Highway Dept., and Article 22 approves \$32,000 for a new police cruiser.

New commission. Article 26 would create a permanent Commission on Disabilities, with five to nine members appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Most of the other warrant items are "housekeeping" items and identical to items on last year's warrant.

JOIN IN A TREASURED NEW ENGLAND TRADITION!

Come to Sheffield's Annual
Town Meeting, Mon., May 4,
7pm, at Mt. Everett Regional
High School.

VOTE IN THE TOWN ELECTION!

Mon., May 11, 9am to 7pm at
Sheffield's Town Hall.

TOWN WARRANT, continued from page 1

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to fix the compensation of the following elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2010, as required by Chapter 41, Section 108 of the General Laws; Moderator, \$200; Selectmen, Chairman \$2,200; Selectmen, two members at \$1,900 each, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, \$800 to pay the stipend for Sheffield's committee members of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District for Fiscal Year 2010, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c 71, s 16B, as amended, to amend Section 4 (e) the SBRSD Regional Agreement as follows:

"For Fiscal Year 2010, each member town's share of the total operating and transportation budget of the District ("Assessment") shall be the amount determined as follows: the district treasurer shall calculate each member town's share of the District's total operating and transportation budget using the alternative assessment method as set forth in the amendment to the SBRSD Regional Agreement voted in May of 2001 and shall then multiply such share by fifty percent (50%) (the "Alternative Method Portion"). The district treasurer shall then calculate each member town's share of the District's total operating and transportation budget using the Statutory Method and shall then multiply such share by fifty percent (50%) (the "Statutory Method Portion"). The district treasurer shall then calculate each member town's actual Assessment for Fiscal Year 2010 by adding the Alternative Method Portion to the Statutory Method Portion.

"For Fiscal Year 2011, each member town's share of the total operating and transportation budget of the District shall be the amount determined as follows: the district treasurer shall calculate each member town's share of the District's total operating and transportation budget using the alternative assessment method as set forth in the amendment to the SBRSD Regional Agreement voted in May of 2001 and shall then multiply such share by twenty-five percent (25%) (the "2011 Alternative Method Portion"). The district treasurer shall then calculate each member town's share of the District's total operating and transportation budget using the Statutory Method and shall then multiply such share by seventy-five percent (75%) (the "2011 Statutory Method Portion"). The district treasurer shall then calculate each member town's actual Assessment for Fiscal Year 2011 by adding the 2011 Alternative Method Portion to the 2011 Statutory Method Portion."

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District ("District") Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 of \$13,203,459 and vote to raise and appropriate \$5,451,605 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget under the alternate apportionment formula, said formula being an optional alternative to the statutory formula enumerated in Chapter 71, Section

16B of the General Laws, said appropriation to be contingent both on the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ override in the amount of \$177,000, and passage by the five member towns of the District of the amendment contained in Article 4 above, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District ("District") Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 of \$13,203,459 and vote to raise and appropriate \$5,580,157 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget under the alternate apportionment formula, said formula being an optional alternative to the statutory formula enumerated in Chapter 71, Section 16B of the General Laws, said appropriation to be contingent both on the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ override in the amount of \$305,000, and the failure of any of the five member towns of the District to pass the amendment contained in Article 4 above, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 of \$13,203,459 and vote to raise and appropriate \$5,323,053 to pay for the Town's assessed share of that budget under the statutory formula enumerated in Chapter 71, Section 16B of the General Laws, said appropriation to be contingent on the failure of Article 5 above and Article 6 above to pass, or the failure of any of the contingent Proposition 2 ½ overrides noted therein to pass, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 and vote to raise and appropriate \$190,190 to pay the Town's assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$55,000 to pay for vocational education tuition in Fiscal Year 2010, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the disposal and management of solid waste, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the appointment of members of the Board of Selectmen to any office or position under their supervision at no additional compensation in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 268A, Section 21A of the General Laws, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members, including members who also serve on the Board of Selectmen, as Title 5 Witnesses for Septic Systems Evaluation Tests and Inspections at a rate of \$35.00 per inspection, and/or Sanitation (Title 5) Inspector at an annual salary of \$500 for Fiscal Year 2010, or take any other action relative thereto.

Continued on page 4

TOWN WARRANT, continued from page 3

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Overlay Surplus, and/or transfer from available funds, \$70,000 to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws, known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to sell, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, any parcel or parcels of real estate which have been or may be acquired through the foreclosure of tax title, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$29,053 to pay principal and interest on the bonded indebtedness authorized by Town Meeting vote of January 30, 1995, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$750 to the Emergency Response Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$40,000 to be added to the \$350,000 approved under Article 16 of the 2008 Annual Town Meeting Warrant to purchase a new fire truck, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$18,000 to purchase new turnout gear for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$19,600 to compensate firefighters for training, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$30,000 for a new brush chipper and snow plows, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$50,000 for a new highway garage design and feasibility study, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$32,000 to purchase and equip a new police cruiser for the Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$5,000 for commercial personal property tax appraisal consultant services for the Board of Assessors, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$15,000 for

town repairs and building improvements to include the Town Hall, Library, and Police Station, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$10,000 to purchase up to date information technology hardware, software, and services, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 8J of the General Laws and establish a permanent Commission on Disabilities to cause the full integration and participation of people with disabilities in Sheffield. Such commission shall (1) research local problems of people with disabilities; (2) advise and assist municipal officials and employees in ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations that affect people with disabilities; (3) coordinate or carry out programs designed to meet the problems of people with disabilities in coordination with programs of the Massachusetts office on disability; (4) review and make recommendations about policies, procedures, services, activities and facilities of departments, boards and agencies of said city or town as they affect people with disabilities; (5) provide information, referrals, guidance and technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, businesses and organizations in all matters pertaining to disability; (6) coordinate activities of other local groups organized for similar purposes.

Said commission shall consist of not less than five nor more than nine members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. A majority of said commission members shall consist of people with disabilities, one member shall be a member of the immediate family of a person with a disability and one member of said commission shall be either an elected or appointed official of the Town. The terms of the first members of said commission shall be for one, two or three years, and so arranged that the term of one-third of the members expires each year, and their successor shall be appointed for terms of three years each. Any member of said commission may, after a public hearing, if so requested, be removed for cause by the appointing authority. A vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment. The chairperson and other officers shall be chosen by a majority vote of said commission members.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 32B, Section 18A of the General Laws which will require that all persons who retire after the acceptance of this section, their spouses and dependents who are enrolled in Medicare Part A at no cost to a retiree, their spouse or dependents, or eligible for coverage thereunder at no cost to a retiree, their spouse or dependents, be required to transfer to a Medicare extension plan offered by the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

You are also directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town elections, to meet in the Town Hall on Depot Square in Sheffield on Monday, May 11, 2009 at 9:00 AM then and there to bring in their votes for the election of the following Town officers:

- One Moderator for one year
- One Selectmen for three years
- One Library Trustee for three years
- Two Planning Board members for three years

And to decide on the following questions:

QUESTION NO. 1A:

“Shall the Town of Sheffield be allowed to assess an additional \$305,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget Assessment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009?”

Yes _____ No _____

QUESTION NO. 1B:

“Shall the Town of Sheffield be allowed to assess an additional \$177,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget Assessment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009?”

Yes _____ No _____

Questions 1a. and 1b. are separate questions. You may vote for or against each question independently. Each question requires a majority of those voting on that question to pass. If more than one question passes, the question with the highest dollar amount will prevail.

All of said officers to be voted for on the official ballots furnished at the polls. The polls will be opened at 9:00 AM and closed at 7:00 PM.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy in seven public places in the Town, not less than seven days before the date of said meeting.

Hereof Fail not, and make return of this Warrant to the Town Clerk, with your doings thereon, at or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands and the Seal of the Town of Sheffield this fifteenth day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Nine.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Julie M. Hannum

David D. Macy

James T. Collingwood, Sr.

THIS SPECIAL ISSUE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SHEFFIELD TIMES AS A PUBLIC SERVICE

The Sheffield Association, publisher of the *Sheffield Times*, mails this special issue to the whole town to support an informed voting process. None of the costs for this issue comes from government sources.

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PROFILES OF CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OFFICES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Term: Three years

Seats open: One



David Smith, Jr.

David and his wife, Jeanne, both graduated from Mt. Everett High School. They have four children, Tony, Christina, Elizabeth and Kelly. They

have been co-owners of the Great Barrington Sears store for 11 years. Prior to that time they owned "Smitty's," next door, for 17 years.

David has been an active member of the Sheffield Kiwanis Club for 17 years, serving at different times as president and currently as president-elect. He is also the Past Distinguished Lieutenant Governor of the New England District of Kiwanis. He notes with great pride that Kiwanis raises \$35,000 in scholarships annually for seniors at Mt. Everett and Monument Mountain High Schools and Berkshire School.

While living in Great Barrington, David served two terms on that town's Board of Selectmen, first winning as a write-in candidate. His platform was to bring in the town manager form of government to that town. Since moving to Sheffield he has served eight years on the Sheffield Finance Committee, two of them as vice chairman.

David is a registered Republican.

David is running for the Sheffield Board of Selectmen because he wants to give back to his community what they have already given to him. If elected, he is excited by the opportunity to serve and he hopes to encourage others to volunteer for town government, as well.

David describes himself as "pro-business." He says he is all for the "small self-employed guy." He is particularly proud of those with an entrepreneurial spirit and wants to help create an environment where such men and women might flourish. Alongside

that, he wants to do all he can to keep Sheffield affordable. He wants to help direct a government that is as "tight and cost effective as possible."



Rene Wood

Rene served two three-year terms on the Planning Board, ending in May 2008. During that time, she was board secretary for two years and chair for four years.

She has been the

town's delegate or alternate delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for the last seven years and is a member of its executive committee.

While on the Planning Board, she oversaw the updating of the zoning by-laws, simplification of board forms and adoption of the town's Master Plan. Under her leadership, several Smart Growth grants were secured, including funding for updating the town's water supply district, writing the Right to Farm By-Law and the initial implementation of the Master Plan. She has also secured funding for several other projects focusing on economic development, including the recently updated Town Economic Development Plan. She is currently a member of the Town Parking Lot Committee and the Senior Center Building Committee and has applied for appointment to the Economic Development Committee.

Rene has been an active fundraiser for the Sheffield Historical Society and Christ Episcopal /Trinity Lutheran Church and a volunteer with the Sheffield Land Trust. She's volunteered with Elder Services and was the first advertising manager for the Sheffield Times. Her baked goods, jams and chutneys are donated to many local organizations.

Rene first came to Sheffield over 25 years ago and became a full-time resident 11 years ago. She holds BA, MBA and MA degrees and has a long-standing interest in elder issues. She enjoys gardening, baking and being with friends and family. Her work experience includes bookkeeper, office manager, teacher, consultant and more than 20 years in information technology sales,

marketing and management. She is married to Dennis Sears.

She is registered as unenrolled, with no party affiliation. She has set up a campaign website at www.electrene.com.

If elected, Rene has four priorities: Resource awareness for Sheffield residents and businesses; targeted economic development; inclusive town government; and prudent fiscal management.

Rene sees politics as "what's possible." She believes she can be an asset to Sheffield. "I think I've shown that I have the experience, dedication, fairness and balance needed," she notes, "and that I can deliver results." She continued: "More importantly, I think I've shown that I'm willing to listen, have an open mind and am respectful and courteous." Rene notes that there is much talent and energy in Sheffield and Ashley Falls waiting to be tapped. She believes it is important to get more people involved.

"Additionally," she concludes, "I think when we reach a certain stage in our lives, we all want to give back, and I currently have the time and energy to do that. Running for an office, especially Selectman, is an incredible responsibility and opportunity."

TOWN MODERATOR

Term: One year

Seats open: One



Bruce Person

Bruce has served as Sheffield's Town Moderator for the last 20 years and is running unopposed.

Born in Meriden, CT, Bruce graduated from the

University of Connecticut at Storrs in 1965 and Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 1969. He came to Sheffield in 1971 after serving in the Air Force for two years and has lived here ever since. He practiced dentistry in Great Barrington for 32 years and is now retired. He has two adult sons and three grandchildren.

Bruce is a registered Republican.

In addition to serving as Town Moderator, Bruce is also Sheffield's Town Constable. A former chairman of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee and trustee of Berkshire School, he is also very involved with the Great Barrington Rotary Club and has served as chairman of their Scholarship Assistance Fund.

Bruce looks forward to the Town's Annual Meeting. He attempts to moderate it "in a non-confrontational way," respecting all opinions. "It is my aim," he said, "that everyone goes home friends."

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Term: Three years

Seats open: One



Betty LeGeyt

Betty is the unopposed incumbent candidate for re-election to the Board of Library Trustees, where she has served for 15 years.

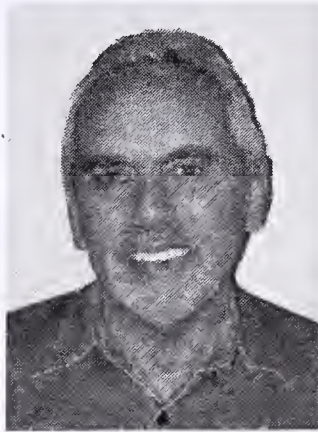
Betty grew up in Lynn, MA, and attended Boston University. She moved to Sheffield in 1963 to be the minister at the Sheffield and Ashley Falls Methodist churches. Betty has four grown children and eight grandchildren and lives with her husband, Dick, on their dairy farm on LeGeyt Rd. She is currently the minister for the Ashley Falls and Canaan, CT, Methodist churches.

Betty is very pleased with the new dimensions that have been added to the library during Nancy Hahn's tenure. She believes that the recently initiated half-day programs for younger children have been very successful and is looking forward to adding similar events for middle-school students. Betty feels that the current trustees work well together and are in a good position to make continued growth a reality.

PLANNING BOARD

Term: Three years

Seats open: Two



Peter Cherneff

Peter is running for his first term as a member of the Planning Board. Earlier this year, he was appointed as an alternate member of that board.

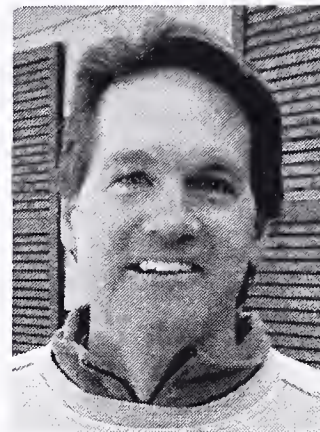
A graduate of Columbia College and Columbia University Law School, Peter is a practicing attorney and member of the firm of Watkins & Cherneff in White Plains, NY. For the last 30 years, his practice has focused on real estate, planning, development, zoning, environmental and land use issues. Much of his work has been with planning boards in towns throughout the Northeast and across the country. His career has given him a broad range of experience, having served in the U.S. Navy as a Military Judge and Counsel, worked in a large New York law firm as a commercial litigator, and established and managed a 40-person firm in Westchester County.

Peter's wife, Hester Velmans, is an author and a translator of novels from Dutch and French to English. Both Peter's and Hester's families have lived in Sheffield for over 30 years; Peter and Hester were one of the first couples to be married by the then-Justice of the Peace Natalie Funk in Town Hall. The couple have two children, Anya, 25, also a graduate of Columbia, now studying for a Masters Degree in International Affairs at Denver University, and Nick, 23, who graduated from Brown University last year and is currently in Thailand teaching English at Chiang Mai University.

Peter also has long experience as a member of local committees and charitable groups. He served as a member of Sheffield's Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee and of its housing subcommittee. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of Gould Farm and the Sheffield Land Trust. He presently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Construct, Inc., a

South County organization working to provide housing and shelter to those in need. He also currently serves as chairman or board member of several other charitable organizations headquartered in New York.

When asked his reason for running for the Planning Board seat, Peter said: "I believe in giving back to the community in which I live as best I can. It would be an honor and a privilege if I can help to keep Sheffield a good place to live for all of my neighbors."



Chris Tomich

Chris is running unopposed for a second term on the Planning Board.

He is the part owner, with his brother Mark, and his father, Matthew, who is semi-retired,

of Tomich Landscape Design and Construction, Inc., with offices on Bears Den Rd. As a volunteer he is very active with Sheffield's Soccer Program.

Chris is registered as unenrolled, with no party affiliation.

He is the current Chair of the Planning Board and is running again because he enjoyed his first term immensely, "found it very interesting" and "wanted to do another." He is very proud of the accomplishments of the Board during the past three years, particularly because some issues were "very challenging." He says, "Change is inevitable," but he wants to do what he can to maintain the character of the community he is proud to call his home.

Sheffield's Annual Town Meeting

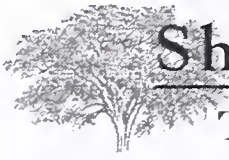
Mon., May 4, 7pm

Mt. Everett Regional High School

Town Election

Mon., May 11, 9am to 7pm

Sheffield Town Hall



Sheffield

TIMES

Community Newsletter for
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PERMIT NO. 4

POSTAL PATRON
SHEFFIELD, MA 01257



DO YOUR PART!

Sheffield's Annual Town Meeting
Monday, May 4, 7pm
Mt. Everett Regional High School

Sheffield's Town Election
Monday, May 11, 9am to 7pm
Sheffield's Town Hall

SAVE THE DATE

The Sheffield Fair
will be
Saturday, September 12,
at the Town Park.

Exhibitors, vendors and volunteers
can contact Dave Smith, Sr.,
for information at 229-9956 or
westhill483@hotmail.com.

**WATCH FOR THE
MAY/JUNE ISSUE
of the
SHEFFIELD TIMES...**

...coming in early May. It's mailed to
those who contribute. And it's avail-
able FREE at Town Hall, the Library, the
Ashley Falls Post Office and at shops and
stores around town.